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SPORTS TALK

THE general conclusion of those who saw the practice match of Hartlepool United on Saturday—except at certain intervals in the second half, when play became dull at times and they turned it a solid phalanx at one end of the ground to have a look at the "dogs"—was that the directors might find it a profitable first outing against Doncaster Rovers to field the Blues team.

In the side were several players whose playing abilities most of the supporters are familiar. They seemed to have lost none of their cunning in initiating good movements and bringing them to successful fruition. But the team as a whole was much better balanced and far more aggressive than the Whites, who, except for spasmotic raids, were content to act purely on the defensive.

Right-wing men on both sides dominated the play, with Copeland and Short the more outstanding. They were fast and aggressive, quick to take advantage of any opposing weakness, and, what is more, most of their shots were right on the mark.

There was something useful, too, in the wing partnership of Morris and McNair, but they scarcely rose to the standard of Copeland and Short. That was because they took up too much time in manoeuvring for position to shoot, and then finding that they were well covered by vigilant defenders. All the same, there are great possibilities even about that wing.

For the rest, there was much to admire in the half-back play of Spellman, of the Blues, and Brown, of the Whites, both of whom were equally as good in defensive as in constructive work.

There is a practice match for amateurs at the ground to-morrow night and all those who have sent in applications should report at the ground by 6-30 p.m.

The game ended in a 4-0 win for the Blues. The goals scored by COPELAND and TURNEY in the first half were added to in the second period by SHORT—a magnificent drive from 20 yards—and TURNEY. The last-named was really the best sharp-shooter on view—no hesitation about him once he was put in possession.

BLACKHALL TRIAL
As the result of Saturday's trial at the Welfare Park, Blackhall, it seems reasonably certain that more than one Service man

will be included in Blackhall's team to visit Carlisle next Saturday (writes our Blackhall correspondent).

McIlwaine and Mustard showed particular promise in attack, as did Barton (he adds). "Old hands" to take part in the trial included Rochester and Bradshaw, whilst Billy Jones, made a welcome re-appearance after a long absence from the game. Collier and Lealman, both well-known to West Hartlepool football "fans," also participated. Barron (Blackburn Rovers), who may again assist Blackhall this season, was a spectator.

Sunderland, among other clubs, have shown an interest in Spencer, the Blackhall left half. Spencer attended Roker Park on Saturday, but had to decline Manager Murray's invitation to take part in a trial as he had just completed a long train journey. The Wearshires are to take the first opportunity of watching SPENCER. They may be too late.

DESERT CRICKETERS

The Desert Air Force cricket team, comprising R.A.F. and South African players, arrived by air in England to-day. They are to play a series of six matches.

Player-manager Squadron Leader G. W. Gibson, who formerly played for Durham City and Sunderland, said the team was composed chiefly of young men who still had a name to make in the cricket world. Their chances of cricket in the past three years were limited, though they played in the desert on pitches made by themselves from sand soaked in sea water and baked and covered by matting.

The team are to practise at Leeds to-morrow. Among the players is Fit-Lt. H. A. Doggart (Durham County), brother of A. G. Doggart, the Corinthian footballer.

EBOR FANCY

John Peel and Abbot's Fell, top-weights for York's popular Ebor Handicap, are better class than the ordinary staying handicappers, and are likely to be the best backed in what will undoubtedly be a very open betting race.

Abbot's Fell finished third and John Peel fourth in the Ascot Gold Cup last month. The shorter distance will suit John Peel, a really good-looking son of Foxhunter and Old Melody, who has twice won over a mile and three-quarters.

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WEST HARTLEPOOL RESULTS

Results at West Hartlepool stadium on Saturday were:

2-30: 370 Yds Handicap—1. HOLY-STONE RING (2), 2y. 3-1; 2. Jester's Phoe (4), 9-4 fav. 35/1; 22.96. Tote: Win, 6/2; 3/6; 3/9; 17/3.

2-45: 370 Yds Handicap—1. HOLY-STONE HALIFAX (3), 6y. 5-2 jt. fav. 2/1; 2. Kae-Roo (1), 5y. 7-2; 22-48; Peggy Wren (2) jt. fav. Tote: Win, 8/6; 4/-; 4/9; 21/9.

3-4: 460 Yds Handicap—1. PALMY DAYS (4), 5y. 7-2; 2. Holystone Snow White (2), 3y. 4-1. Head: 27.90. Prince Tozzz (5), 11-4 fav. Tote: Win, 10/2; 5/3; 5/6; 41/8.

3-15: 370 Yds Handicap—1. MONTY (4), 9y. 7-2; 2. Duly Oblige (1), 5y. 3-1; 22.35. Wistful Bob (5), 11-4 fav. Tote: Win, 8/6; 4/9; 4/-; 28/-.

3-30: 460 Yds Handicap—1. HARVEST MONEY (2), 2y. 9-2; 2. Keel Rambler (3), 6y. 4-1; 15/2; 27.44. Hidden Champion (4) 5-2 fav. Tote: Win, 12/-; 5/6; 5/3; 5/6.

3-45: 370 Yds Handicap—1. HURRICANE (2), 2y. 7-2; 2. Wild Bill (5), 15y. 3-1. jt. fav with res. Head: 15/2; 22.26. Tote: Win, 11/10; 5/3; 4/6; 57/9.

4-0: 370 Yds Handicap—1. SURDON (5), 12y. 6-4 fav. 2. Marual (4), 9y. 5-1; 11/2; 22.04. Tote: Win, 4/9; 3/6; 4/3; 20/6.

4-15: 460 Yds Handicap—1. HASTY ROMANCE (4), 8y. 5-2 jt. fav.; 2. Fudar Fee (2), 2y. 4-1; 5/-; 27.19. Gone On (3) jt. fav. Tote: Win, 7/6; 4/2; 5/6; 39/-.

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